



25 DEC 96

STARMAN



DEMON QUEST

PART TWO OF THREE

ROBINSON • HARRIS • VON GRAWBODGER




F 96



WE'VE
RECEIVED
WORD.

FROM
WHERE?

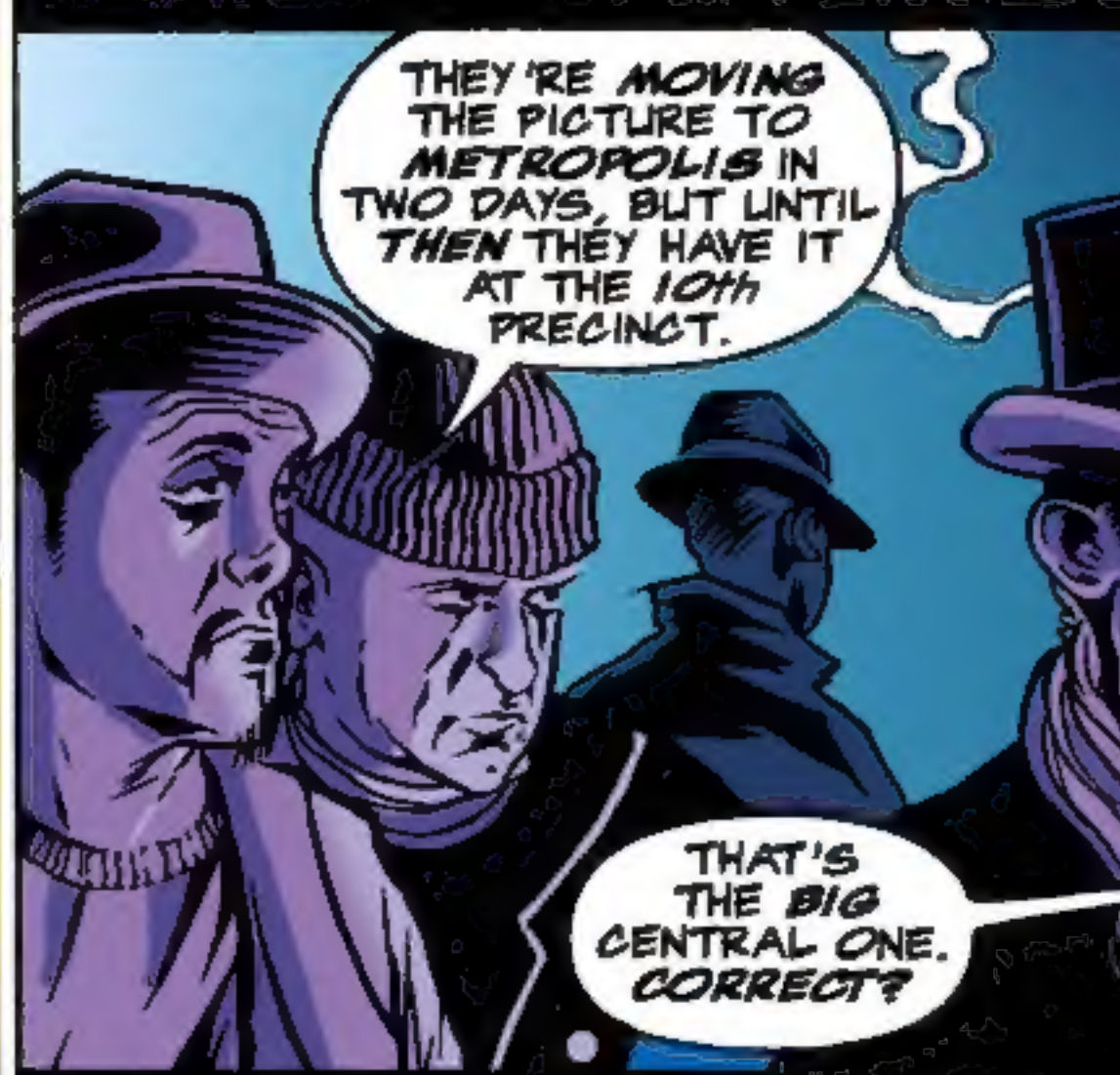


EVERYWHERE, MR.
MERRITT. YOU KNOW HOW
IT IS. ONE PERSON HEARS A
RUMOR, AND SUDDENLY
EVERYONE'S GOT THE NEWS
ON THEIR LIPS.



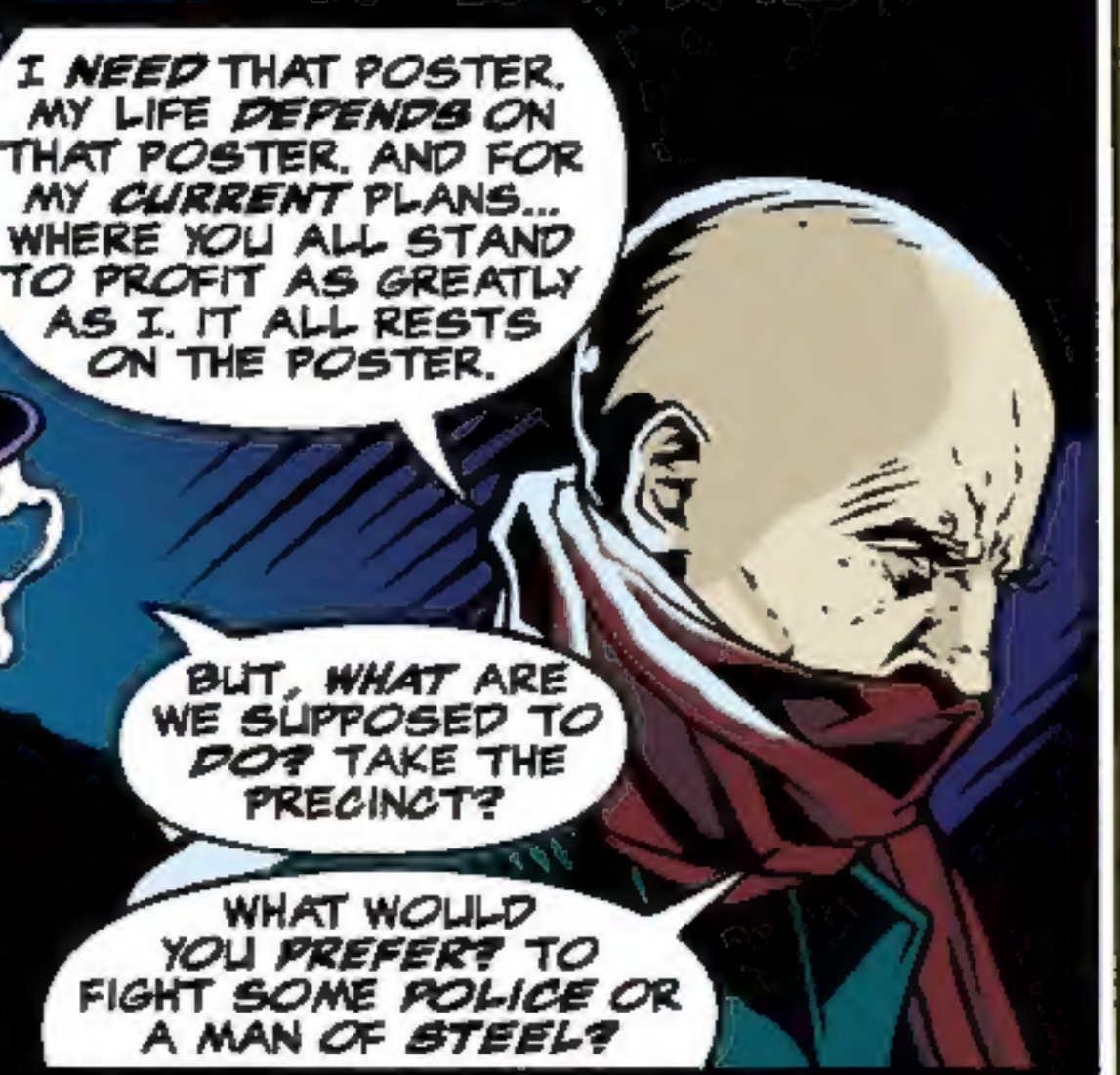
WELL, NO,
I DON'T KNOW
ANYTHING OF
THE KIND.

BUT IF
YOU SAY
SO.



THEY'RE MOVING
THE PICTURE TO
METROPOLIS IN
TWO DAYS, BUT UNTIL
THEN THEY HAVE IT
AT THE 10TH
PRECINCT.

THAT'S
THE BIG
CENTRAL ONE.
CORRECT?



I NEED THAT POSTER.
MY LIFE DEPENDS ON
THAT POSTER, AND FOR
MY CURRENT PLANS...
WHERE YOU ALL STAND
TO PROFIT AS GREATLY
AS I. IT ALL RESTS
ON THE POSTER.


BUT, WHAT ARE
WE SUPPOSED TO
DO? TAKE THE
PRECINCT?

WHAT WOULD
YOU PREFER? TO
FIGHT SOME POLICE OR
A MAN OF STEEL?



WHAT ABOUT STARMAN?
HE'S HERE. HE'S
INVOLVED.


I'LL CHANGE
THE QUESTION THEN.
WHICH WOULD YOU
PREFER TO FIGHT? A
MAN OF STEEL OR A
BOY WITH A GLOWING
TOY AND SCANT
EXPERIENCE?



WE'LL
NEED MORE
MEN.

GET
THEM.

GET THE
POSTER!



AND THEN
LET'S ALL GET
OUT OF THIS
ACCURSED
CITY.



2 Fools

IF MERRITT STRIKES, IT WILL BE SOON. TODAY. TOMORROW.

IT HAS TO BE TOMORROW...IF HE BELIEVES THE YARN WE'RE SPINNING, THEN THE LATEST HE CAN COME FOR THE POSTER IS TOMORROW.

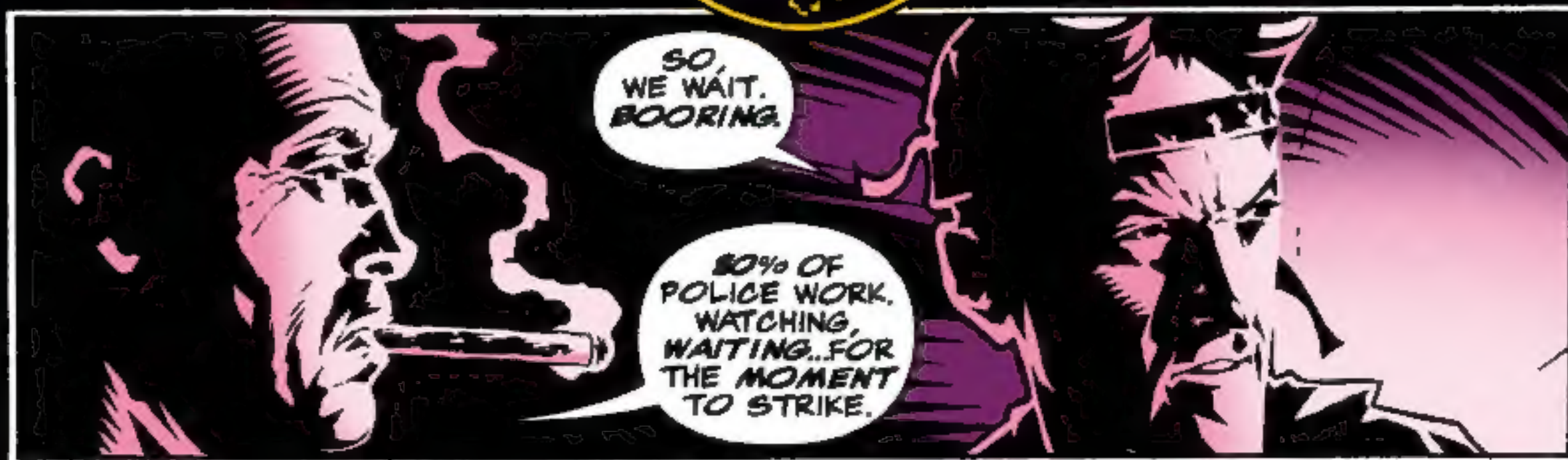
WELL, WHEN HE DOES, WE'LL BE WAITING.

ALL OF US.

HELL AND BACK PART II

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♦ JACK KNIGHT created by
JAMES ROBINSON & TONY HARRIS ♦



SO,
WE WAIT.
BOORING.

80% OF
POLICE WORK.
WATCHING,
WAITING...FOR
THE MOMENT
TO STRIKE.



BUT I AM SICK OF
PIZZA ALREADY.
AND CHINESE
FOOD.

WHAT I
WOULDN'T
GIVE SOMEONE
TO OPEN A
GOOD IRISH
RESTAURANT.



mmm, YEAH. SITTING ON A
STAKEOUT WITH A BOWL
OF STEW IN MY LAP.
HEAVEN.

YOU HAVEN'T
LIVED UNTIL YOU'VE
TASTED GOOD IRISH
COOKING.

OUR DEAR
SISTER GETS A BIT
GAELOCENTRIC
SOMETIMES. LOVES HER
IRISH ROOTS, SO SHE
DOES.



WHAT ABOUT
YOU?

I'M AN
AMERICAN.

WELL, MY
GRANDFATHER WAS
ENGLISH. ONE OF "THE
BASTARD ENGLISH," AS
I BELIEVE HOPE SO
CHARMINGLY PHRASED
IT ONCE.



AND?

I'M AN
AMERICAN,
TOO.



YOU KNOW, THIS REMINDS
ME OF A DEBATE OUR
FATHERS HAD OVER THE
FORTY-FIVE YEARS THEY
KNEW EACH OTHER.

I REMEMBER DAD
TELLING ME OF ONE TIME IN
PARTICULAR...AN ADVENTURE
HE HELPED YOUR FATHER ON.
THEY FOUGHT A COSTUMED
VILLAIN CALLED THE KING
OF TEARS.



THEY WERE SO BUSY DEBATING THE PROBLEMS IN IRELAND...SO BUSY THAT THE KING OF TEARS ALMOST ESCAPED.

THEY GOT HIM THOUGH?

THE KING'S GRANDPARENTS WERE SCOTTISH. HE FELT HIS PEOPLE HAD GRIEVANCES WITH BOTH SIDES...THE ENGLISH AND THE IRISH. HE GOT INTO THE DEBATE. THAT KEPT HIM THERE. I GUESS THEY FINISHED THE DISCUSSION, THE THREE OF THEM, WITH THE KING OF TEARS IN A JAIL CELL.



HA HA HA HA!

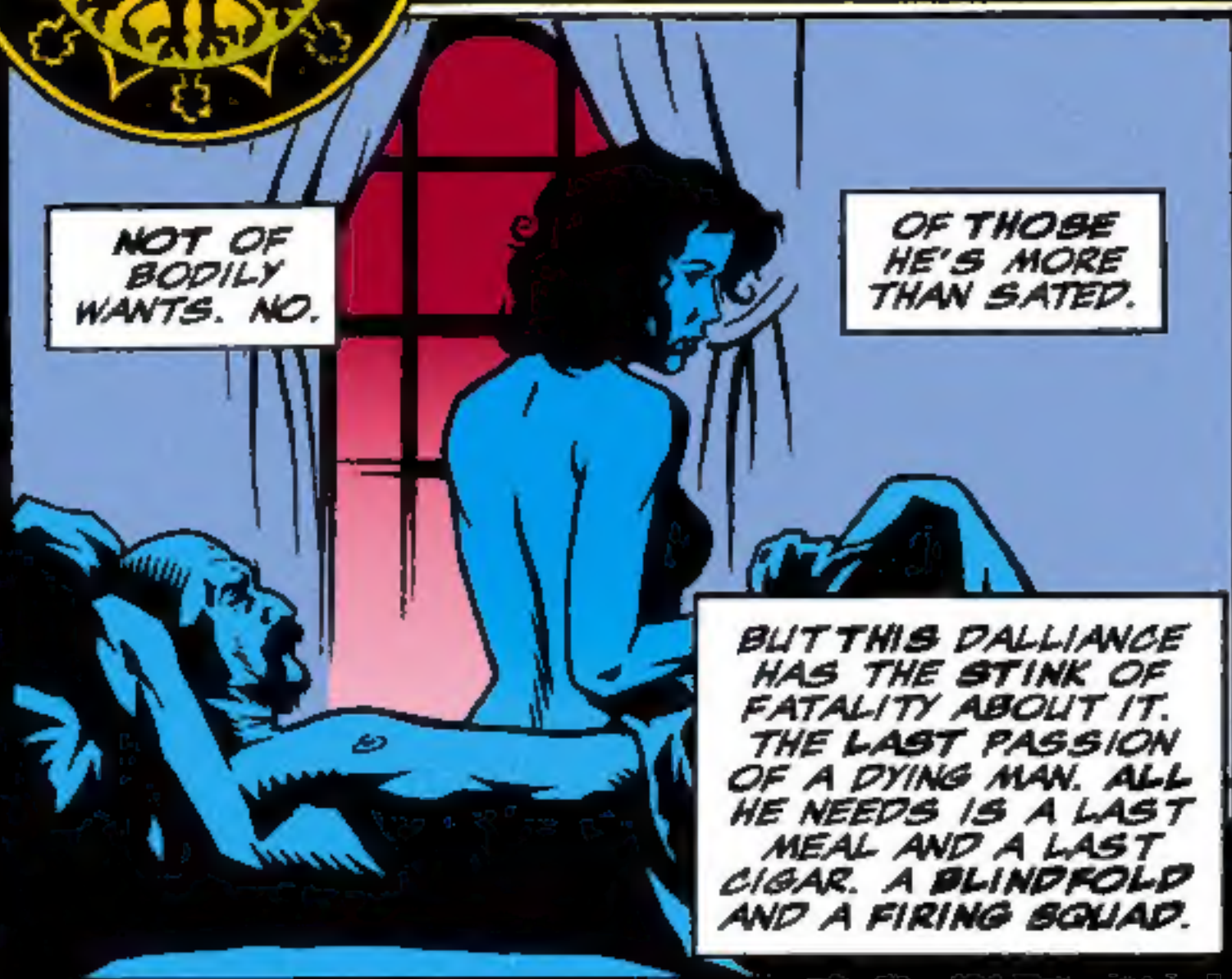
WELL, I'M GLAD WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE. HUH, HOPE?

NOW, WE HAVEN'T TRIED THAT NEW MONGOLIAN BARBECUE YET. WHO'S GAME?





MERRITT
LIES
UNSATISFIED.



NOT OF
BODILY
WANTS. NO.

OF THOSE
HE'S MORE
THAN SATIATED.

BUT THIS DALLIANCE
HAS THE STINK OF
FATALITY ABOUT IT.
THE LAST PASSION
OF A DYING MAN. ALL
HE NEEDS IS A LAST
MEAL AND A LAST
CIGAR. A BLINDFOLD
AND A FIRING SQUAD.



HONEY
I'M GOING
NOW. I...
ERR...



THE
MONEY'S
ON THE
DRESSER, MY
DEAR. MORE
THAN YOU
ASKED FOR,
TOO.

THIS WAS MEANT TO
TAKE HIS MIND OFF HIS
DILEMMA. THE POSTER
ISN'T HIS. WITHOUT IT HE
STANDS THE DISTINCT
CHANCE OF LOSING HIS
IMMORTALITY.

THE LAST TIME SOME-
THING THIS CALAMITOUS
OCCURRED, IT WAS
HAMILTON DREW'S DOING.
MERRITT REMEMBERS
THAT YEAR AL JOLSON'S
TALKING PICTURE CAUSED
QUITE A STIR.

BUT DREW AND
JOLSON ARE
BOTH DEAD NOW.

AND--

MR. MERRITT.



YES, SIDNEY. I HOPE YOU HAVE THE NEWS I WANT.

WE HAVE THE MEN. IT WILL COST US MONEY, OF COURSE.

SIDNEY, HAVE YOU ANY INKLING OF HOW LITTLE CONSEQUENCE MONEY IS?

HOW OLD DO I LOOK TO YOU, SIDNEY?

NOT OLD. 40. MAYBE.

I WANTED TO AGE. I WANTED TO LOSE THE BOYISH FROST OF FOLLY. BUT WHEN I FELT I HAD REACHED A YEAR I WAS HAPPY WITH, I STOPPED AGING. NOW I FEAR WHAT MAY OCCUR.

MY LIEGE! COME TO ME!

DON'T BE AFRAID, MY SERVANT! MY LOYAL FRIEND!

I CANNOT. THE POSTER IS MY GATEWAY. THIS, YOU SEE, IS MERELY A SHADOW.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

FIND THE POSTER! FIND IT! GET IT!

AND THERE IS A WOMAN. SHE WILL BE A THREAT TO YOU AND ME. CHARITY... HER NAME IS CHARITY. KILL HER, OR WE ARE UNDONE!



HOW LONG
WILL WE STAY IN
THIS MOTEL?

UNTIL
WE'RE TOLD
IT'S SAFE.

US
COOPED
UP HERE.

I'M SORRY...
SORRY IF THIS
IS A DRAG
FOR YOU.

IT'S
NOT.



YOU
DON'T TALK
MUCH.

NO.

WHY
IS THAT?
SHY?



SOME ARE TOO
FOND OF THE
SOUND THEIR OWN
VOICES MAKE.

I'M
NOT ONE OF
THEM.

WELL, I
JUST GOT YOU
TO STRING TWO
WHOLE
SENTENCES TO-
GETHER. DON'T
GET CARRIED
AWAY.



WILL WE
BE SAFE
HERE?

AS
ANYWHERE.

I HAVE TO
SAY...I DO FEEL
QUITE
PROTECTED
WITH YOU AS MY
GUARDIAN.



GOOD.





WHERE IS SHE?

WITH THE TASK AHEAD OF ME IN RECLAIMING THE POSTER, I SHALL ENJOY SOME SAFE AND EASY SLAUGHTER AS A DIVERSION.

THEN LISTEN, MY SERVANT. I WILL TELL YOU.

I HAVE TO GET BACK. I WANTED TO SEE YOU...GIVE YOU WESLEY DODDS'S REGARDS, BUT I CAN'T STAY.

IT'S WEIRD, IF EVER THERE WAS A CASE OF HURRY UP AND WAIT IN AN ADVENTURE, THIS POSTER DEMON GIG IS IT.

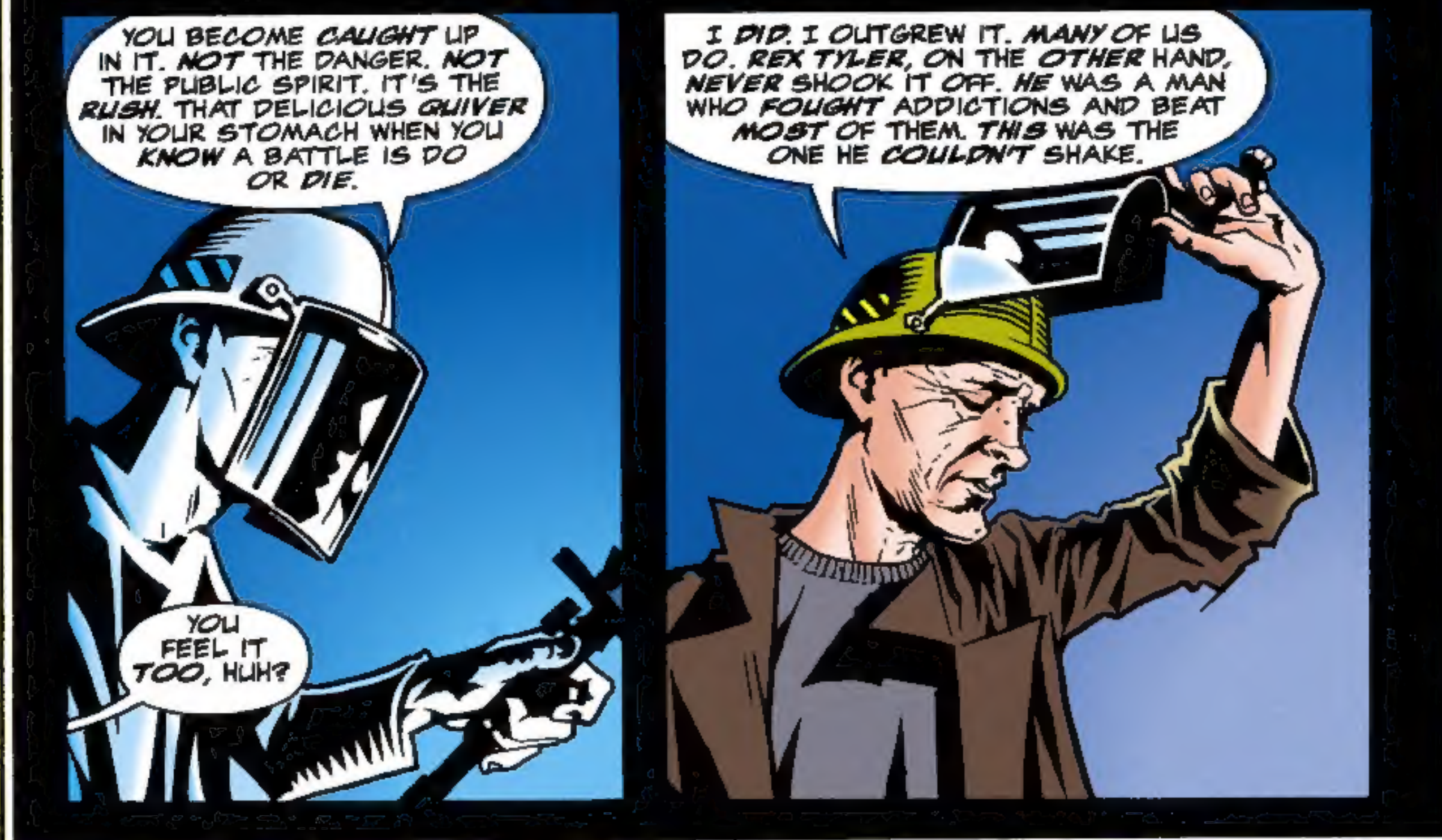


AN ADVENTURE?

YOU THINK OF IT AS AN ADVENTURE?

I KNOW THE SHADE AND MATT O'DARE ARE LOST IN HELL. I KNOW I'M TAKING ON TERROR LIKE I THOUGHT I'D NEVER HAVE TO FACE.

BUT--



YOU BECOME CAUGHT UP IN IT. NOT THE DANGER, NOT THE PUBLIC SPIRIT. IT'S THE RUSH. THAT DELICIOUS QUIVER IN YOUR STOMACH WHEN YOU KNOW A BATTLE IS DO OR DIE.

YOU FEEL IT TOO, HUH?

I DID. I OUTGREW IT. MANY OF US DO. REX TYLER, ON THE OTHER HAND, NEVER SHOOK IT OFF. HE WAS A MAN WHO FOUGHT ADDICTIONS AND BEAT MOST OF THEM. THIS WAS THE ONE HE COULDN'T SHAKE.

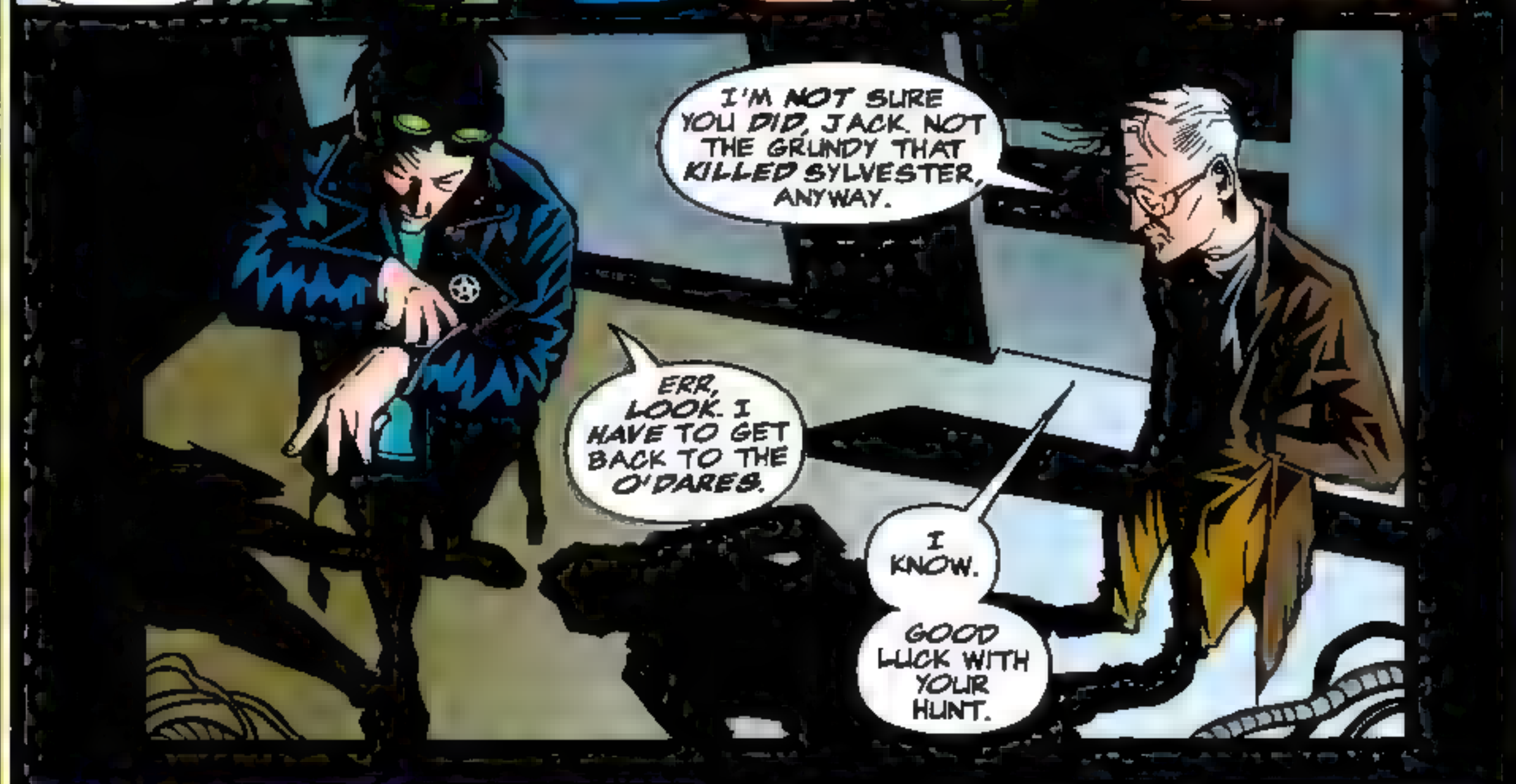
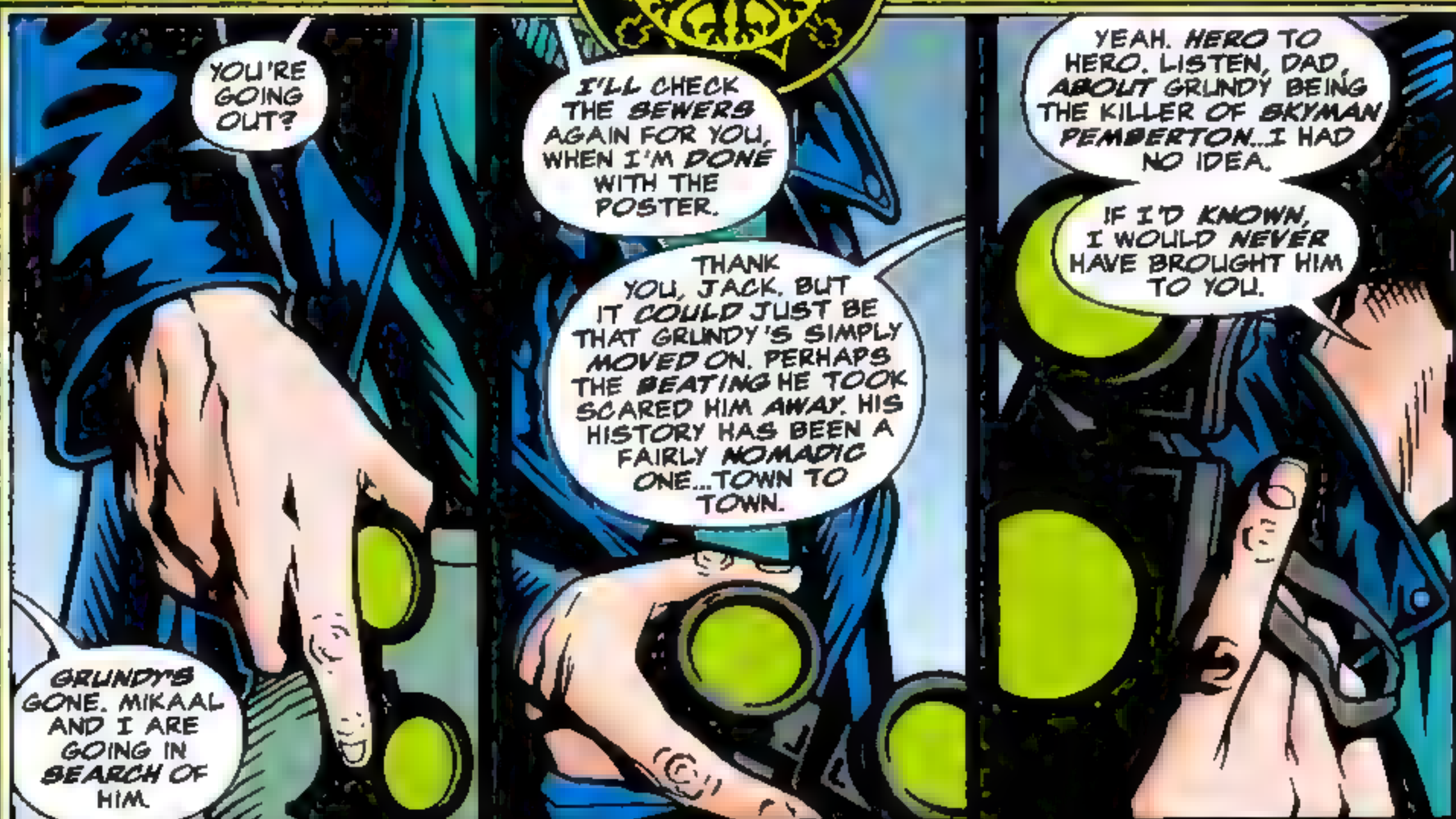


I FOUGHT
SUPER-VILLAINS.
MAD SCIENCE. I
UNDERSTAND
THAT. BUT DEVILS
AND HELLFIRE

MIKAAL.
YOU'RE
TALKING,
BUD.

MIKAAL
BECAME LUCID
WHEN HE REGAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS AFTER
THE EXPLOSION
AT THE CHANDLER
BUILDING.

I'M JUST
GLAD YOU'RE ALIVE.
YOUR OTHER LIFE...THE
MEMORIES OF IT
WILL COME BACK
TO YOU.





"IF I SURVIVE THIS, I'M GOING TO GET SO DRUNK, I CAN'T THINK ABOUT CRIME, OR DEVILS, OR SUPERHEROES, OR MY CRAZY DAMN FAMILY."



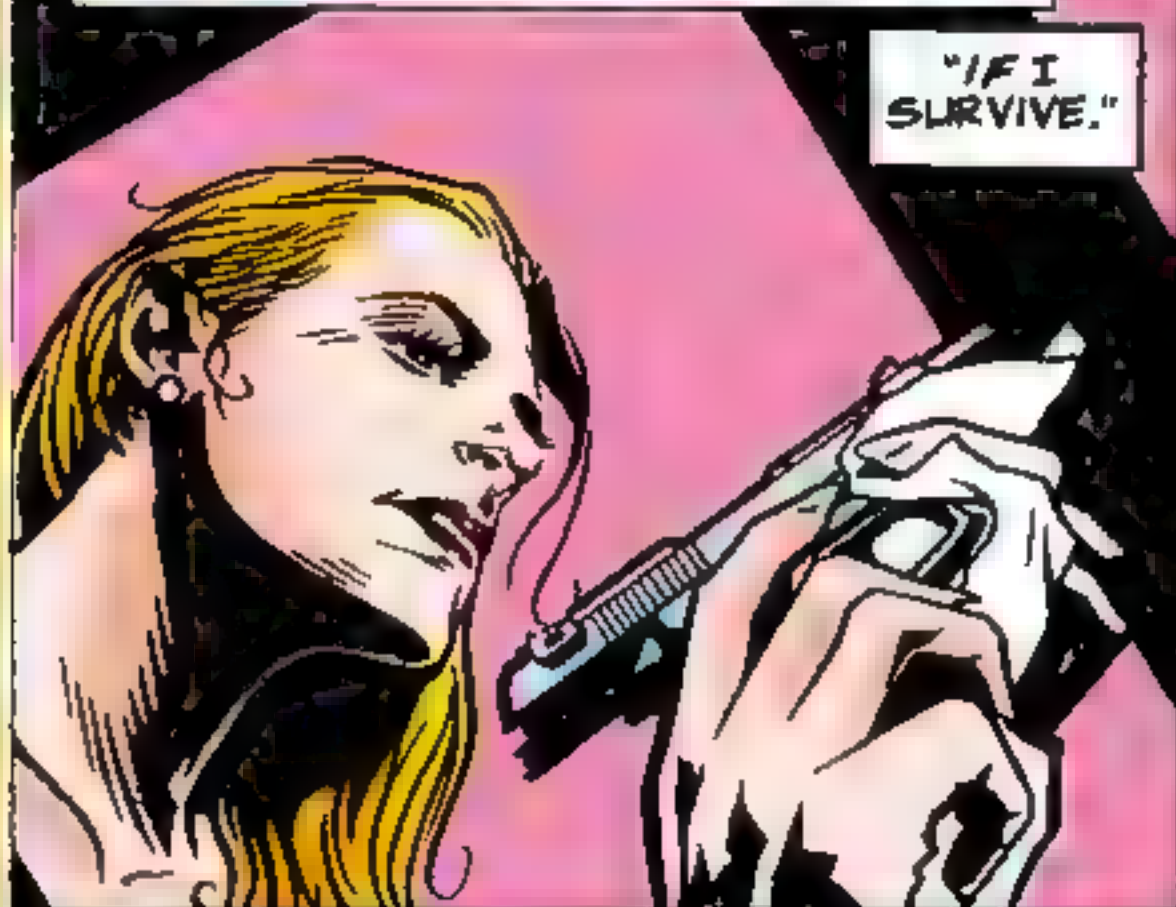
"AND THEN I'LL SOBER UP AND GET MYSELF A WOMAN."

"AND THEN WHEN I'M DONE WITH HER, I'LL GO OUT AND GET GOOD AND DRUNK AGAIN."

"IF I SURVIVE THIS, I'M NOT GOING TO WASTE MY ENERGIES...MY SPARE TIME. I'LL LEARN FRENCH. I'LL LEARN THE PIANO. AND I'LL READ NOTHING BUT GOOD BOOKS. NO JUNK. JUST THE CLASSICS."

"IF I SURVIVE THIS, I'LL DO LIKE I ALWAYS DO AFTER A HARD DAY."

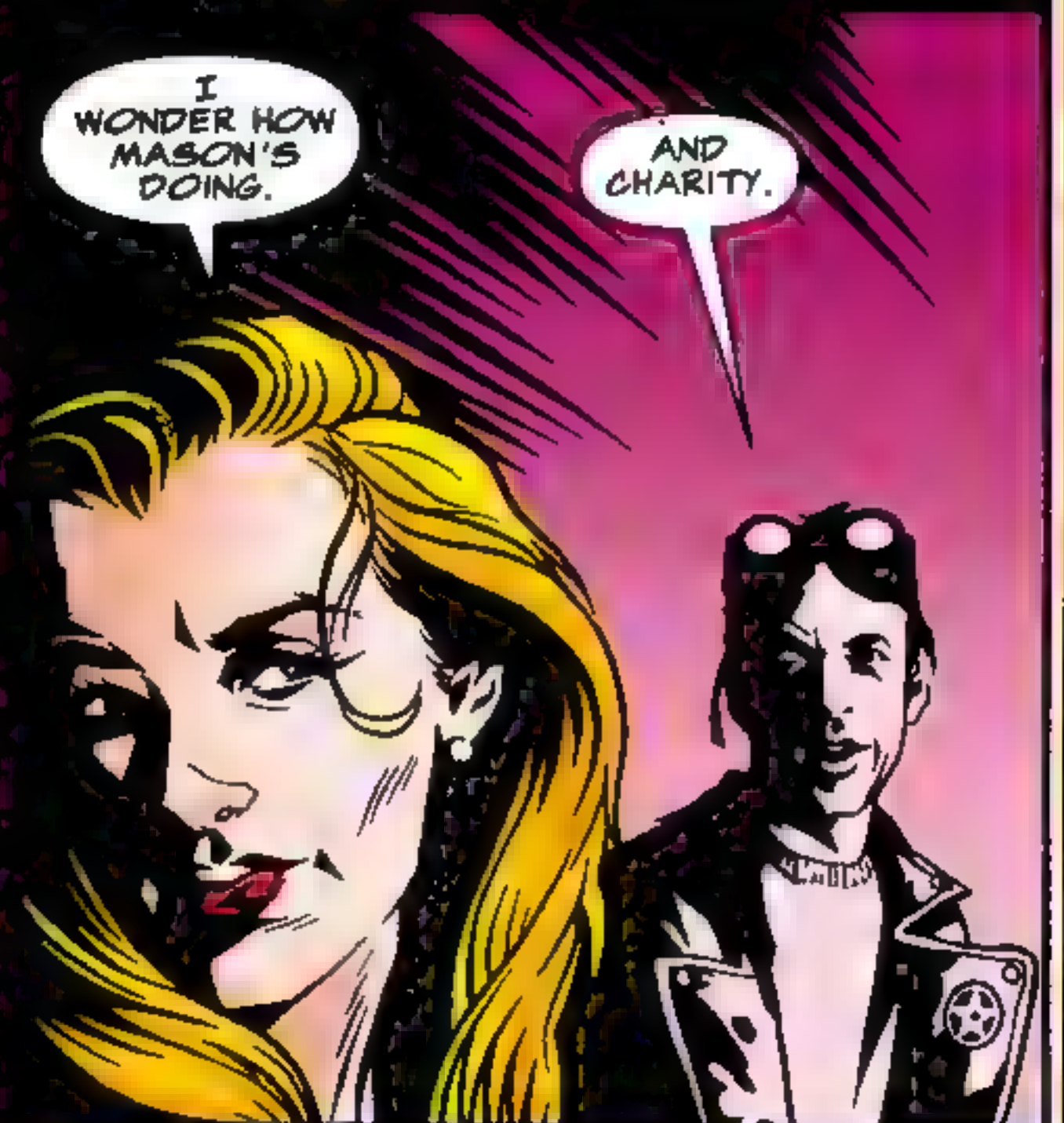
"I'LL GO HOME AND TELL MY WIFE I LOVE HER."



"IF I SURVIVE."




"I'M BACK."



"I WONDER HOW MASON'S DOING."

"AND CHARITY."





SO JACK TOLD ME A LITTLE ABOUT YOU.

YOU'RE THE QUIET ONE WHO'LL NEVER GET PROMOTED.

WHAT? WHO SAYS?

THAT YOU'RE QUIET? HONEY, IT'S KIND OF OBVIOUS.

NO. NEVER GET PROMOTED.

JACK, BUT HE WAS ONLY REPEATING WHAT HE HEARD YOU'RE A DAREDEVIL. YOU DO CRAZY THINGS.

I GET RESULTS.

BUT IF THERE'S A RULEBOOK, YOU LOST YOURS A WHILE AGO, RIGHT?

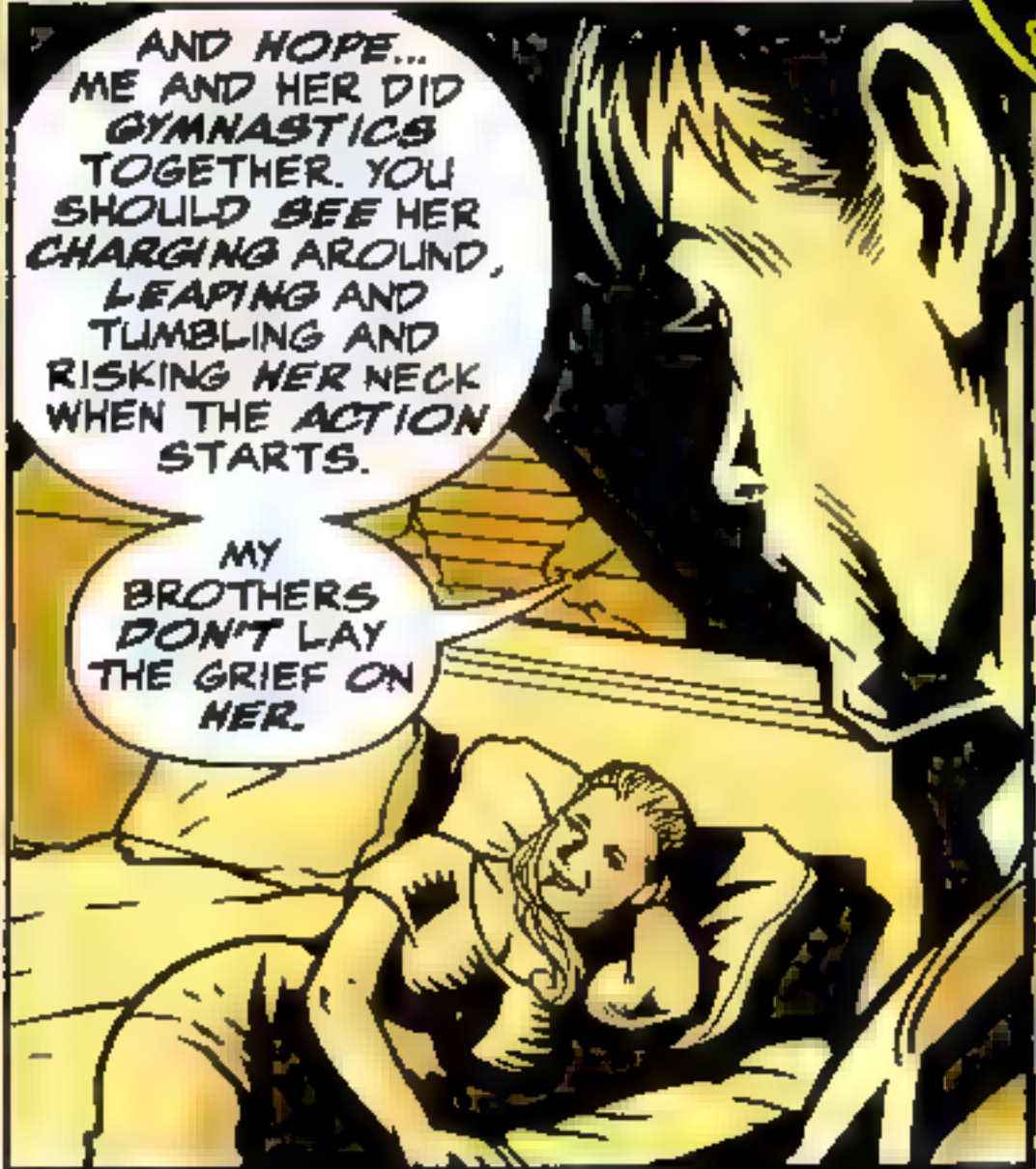
LOOK, ALL THE BAD WAYS A COP CAN BREAK THE RULES. BEATING SUSPECTS. FALSIFYING EVIDENCE. YOU KNOW. I'D RATHER DIE THAN DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO A COLLAR...

IF I HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE WAY THEY TAUGHT AT THE ACADEMY OR MY WAY, I CHOOSE MY WAY.

MY BROTHERS GIVE ME HELL ABOUT IT, BUT THEY FORGET... OR CHOOSE NOT TO REMEMBER... THAT OUR DAD WAS JUST LIKE THAT, TOO.


HOW DO YOU THINK A UNIFORMED COP-- NEVER EVEN TRIED FOR A DETECTIVE'S SHIELD... JUST LIKED DRINKING AND BEING A BEAT COP--HOW DO YOU THINK HE GOT THE NAME HE GOT?

"STARMAN'S SIDEKICK," THE PAPERS CALLED HIM MORE THAN ONCE. HE USED TO EAT DINNER WITH COMMISSIONER BAILEY MORE THAN ANY OF THE CITY COUNCILMEN. AND HOW DO YOU THINK HE GOT THAT? BY BEING HIS OWN MAN. BEING FEARLESS. I'M MY FATHER'S SON. JUST LIKE JACK KNIGHT IS.




AND HOPE...
ME AND HER DID
GYMNASTICS
TOGETHER. YOU
SHOULD SEE HER
CHARGING AROUND,
LEAPING AND
TUMBLING AND
RISKING HER NECK
WHEN THE ACTION
STARTS.

MY
BROTHERS
DON'T LAY
THE GRIEF ON
HER.



I GOT
YOU TALKING,
DIDN'T I? I KNEW I
COULD, IF I ASKED
THE RIGHT--

WELL,
AREN'T YOU
THE ORATOR
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.




SHH.



WHAT?

SOME-
THING'S OUT
THERE?

NO...MAYBE...I
DON'T KNOW.
BUT SOME-
THING'S NOT
RIGHT. I CAN
FEEL IT.



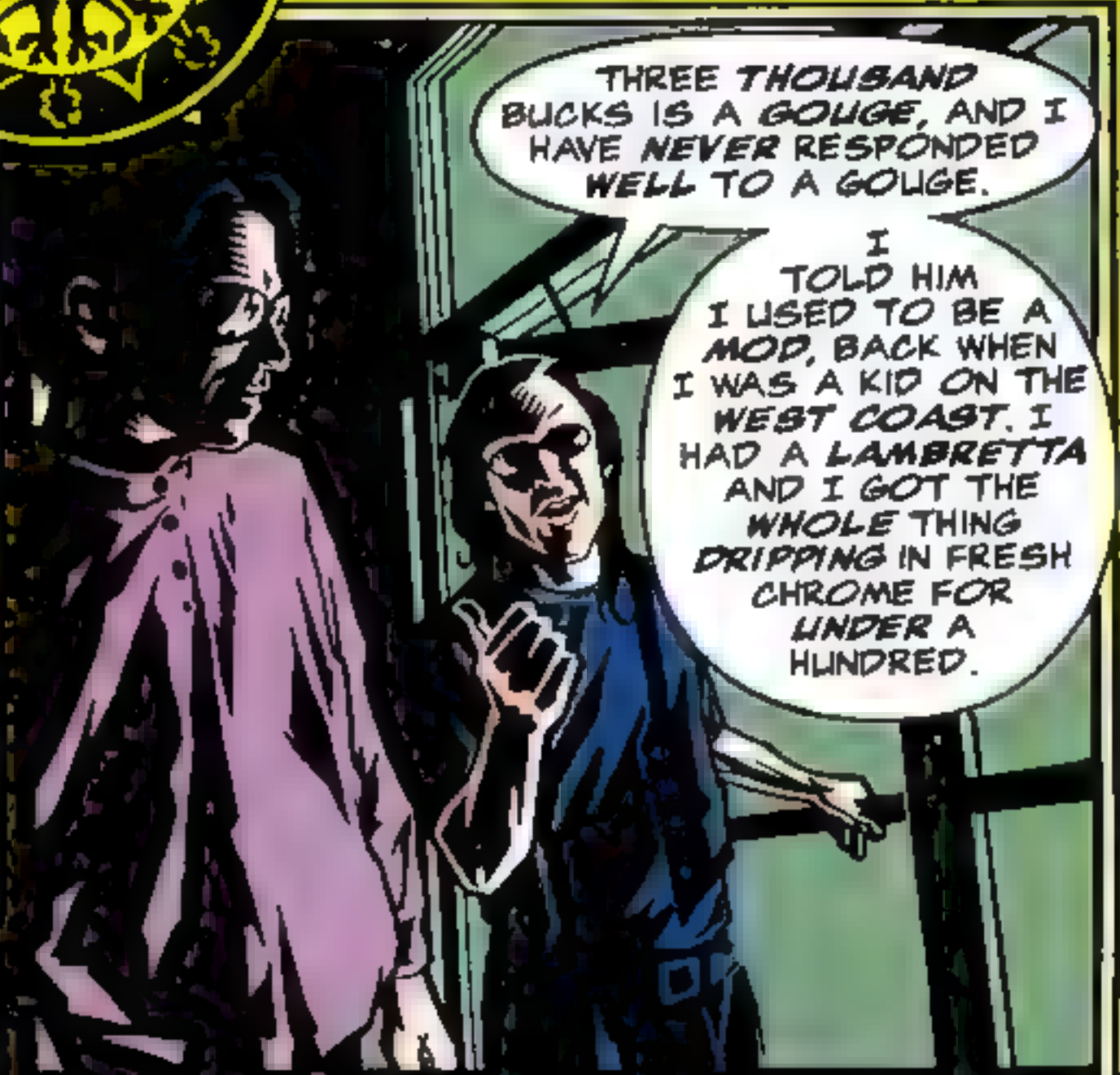
BATHROOM!
QUICKLY! LOCK IT
AND ONLY COME OUT
WHEN I SAY SO.

MOVE!



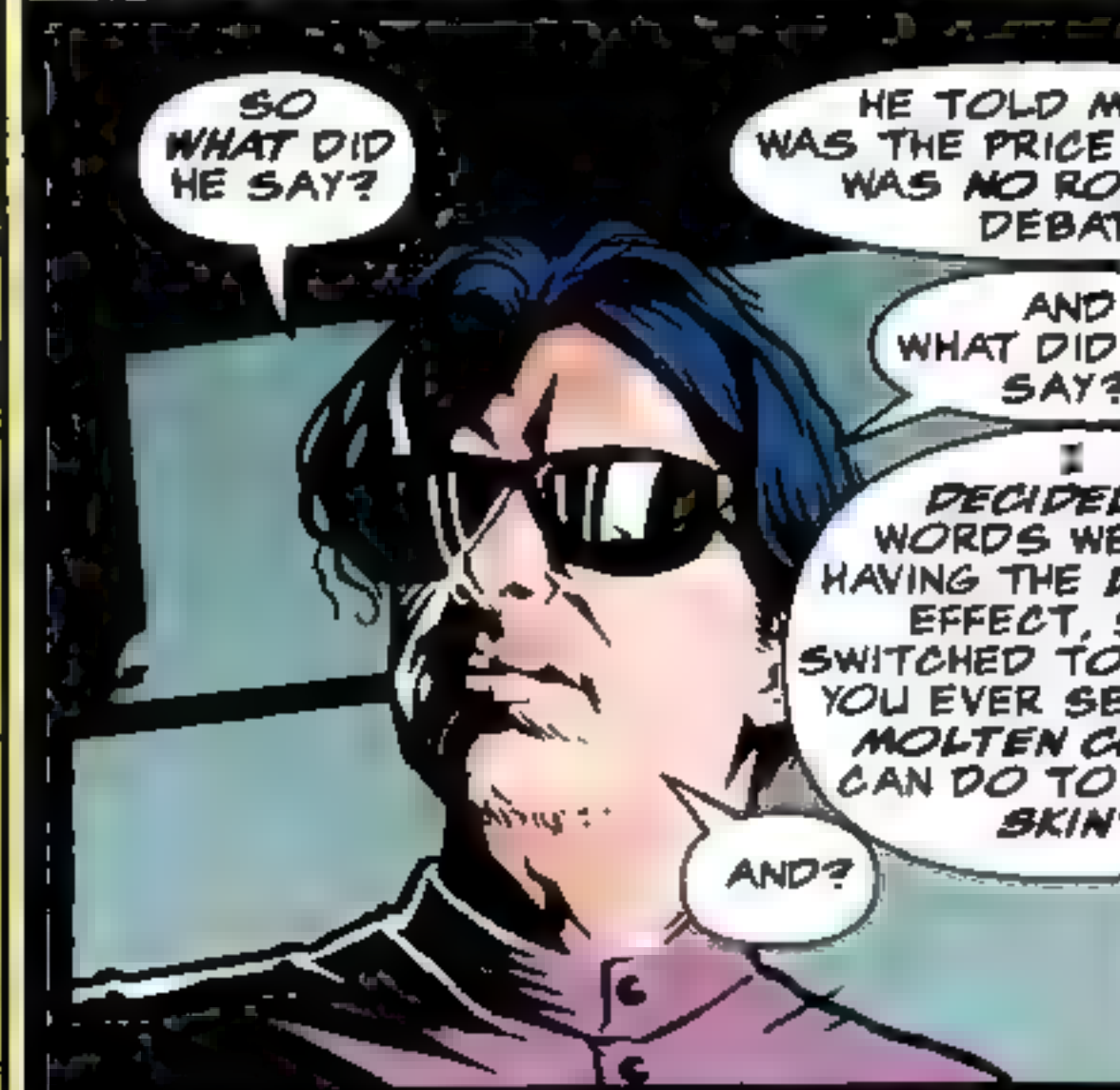
SO I SAID TO HIM THAT EVEN THOUGH THIS WAS THE BUMPER TO A '67 STUDEBAKER WE WERE TALKING ABOUT...

...CHROME IS STILL CHROME.



THREE THOUSAND BUCKS IS A GOUGE, AND I HAVE NEVER RESPONDED WELL TO A GOUGE.

I TOLD HIM I USED TO BE A MOD, BACK WHEN I WAS A KID ON THE WEST COAST. I HAD A LAMBRETTA AND I GOT THE WHOLE THING DRIPPING IN FRESH CHROME FOR UNDER A HUNDRED.



SO WHAT DID HE SAY?

HE TOLD ME THAT WAS THE PRICE AND THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR DEBATE.

AND WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I DECIDED MY WORDS WEREN'T HAVING THE DESIRED EFFECT, SO I SWITCHED TO ACTION. YOU EVER SEEN WHAT MOLTEN CHROME CAN DO TO HUMAN SKIN?

AND?



HE DID MY BUMPER FOR FREE.



HERE WE ARE. YOU READY?

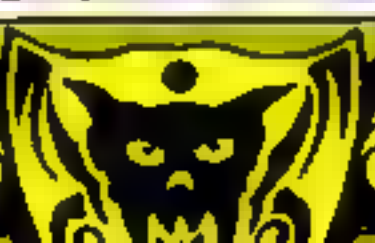
FULL CLIP.

ONE COP?

SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM.



SO? ...





...WHERE
ARE
THEY?

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!





ARE THE
INCENDIARY
CHARGES
SET?

ANY
MOMENT, MR.
MERRITT. ANY
MOMENT.



I
HOPE WE
HAVEN'T
MIS-
JUDGED
MERRITT.

WHAT IF
HE'S SUCH A
COWARD HE
SIMPLY GOT
OUT OF TOWN?
WHAT IF WE'RE
EATING FAST
FOOD AND BAD
COFFEE FOR
NOTHING?



WELL,
YOU
CAN
GO.

ALL OF YOU
CAN GO IF YOU
FEEL THAT WAY.
BUT I'M
STAYING.

AND SO AM I.
THAT FOSTER
HAS MY BROTHER
AND THE MAN WHO
SAVED MY LIFE.



DON'T WORRY. THAT
FOSTER ISN'T JUST A
DEMON'S DOORWAY.
IT'S ALSO MERRITT'S
IMMORTALITY.

YOU
THINK HE'S
GOING TO
GIVE THAT UP
WITHOUT A
FIGHT? NO...

...MERRITT
WILL BE
HERE
SOON.



"COUNT ON IT."





KEEP AT IT!



YEAH! THINK
WE'RE DRIVING
'EM BACK!

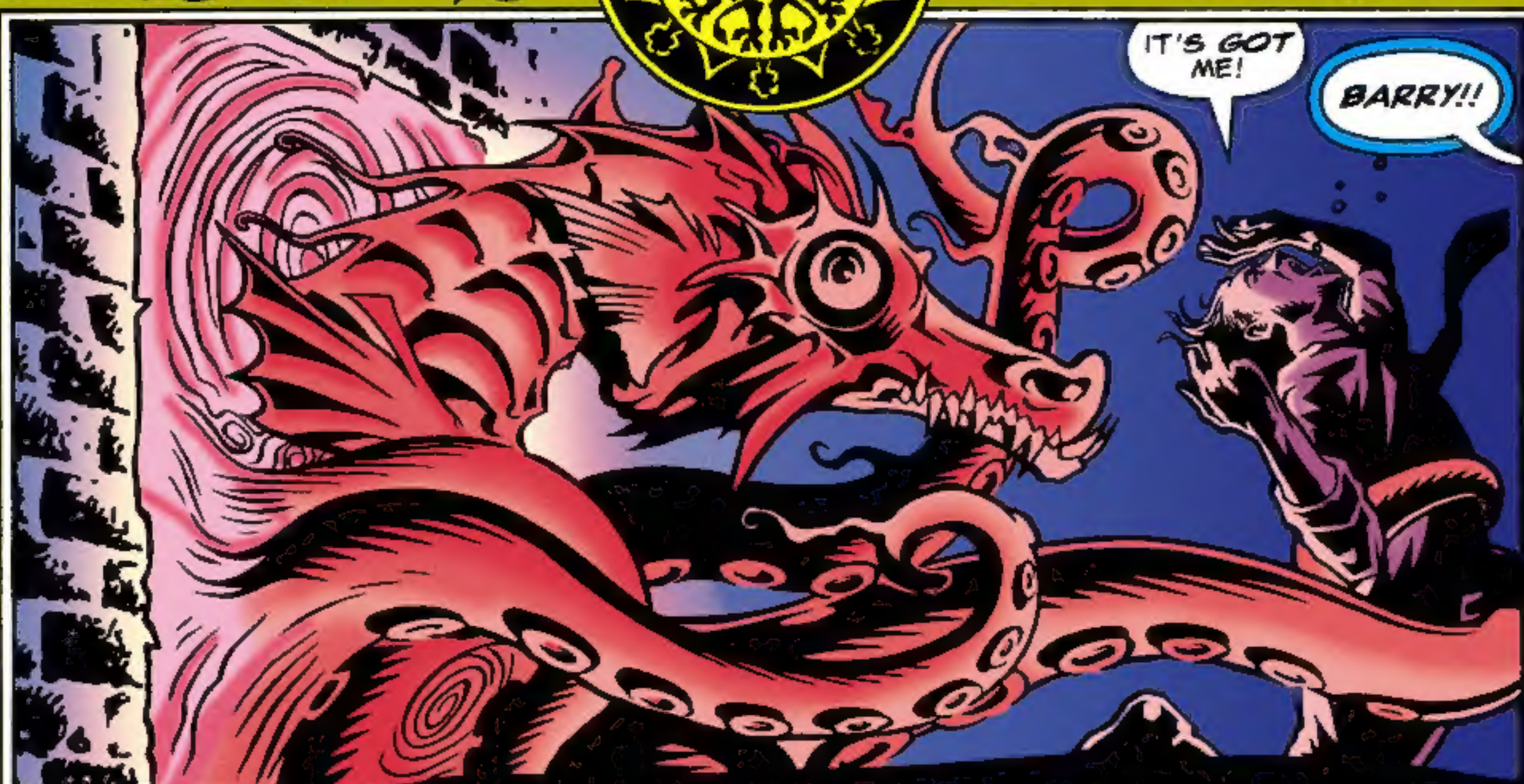
THE POSTER!

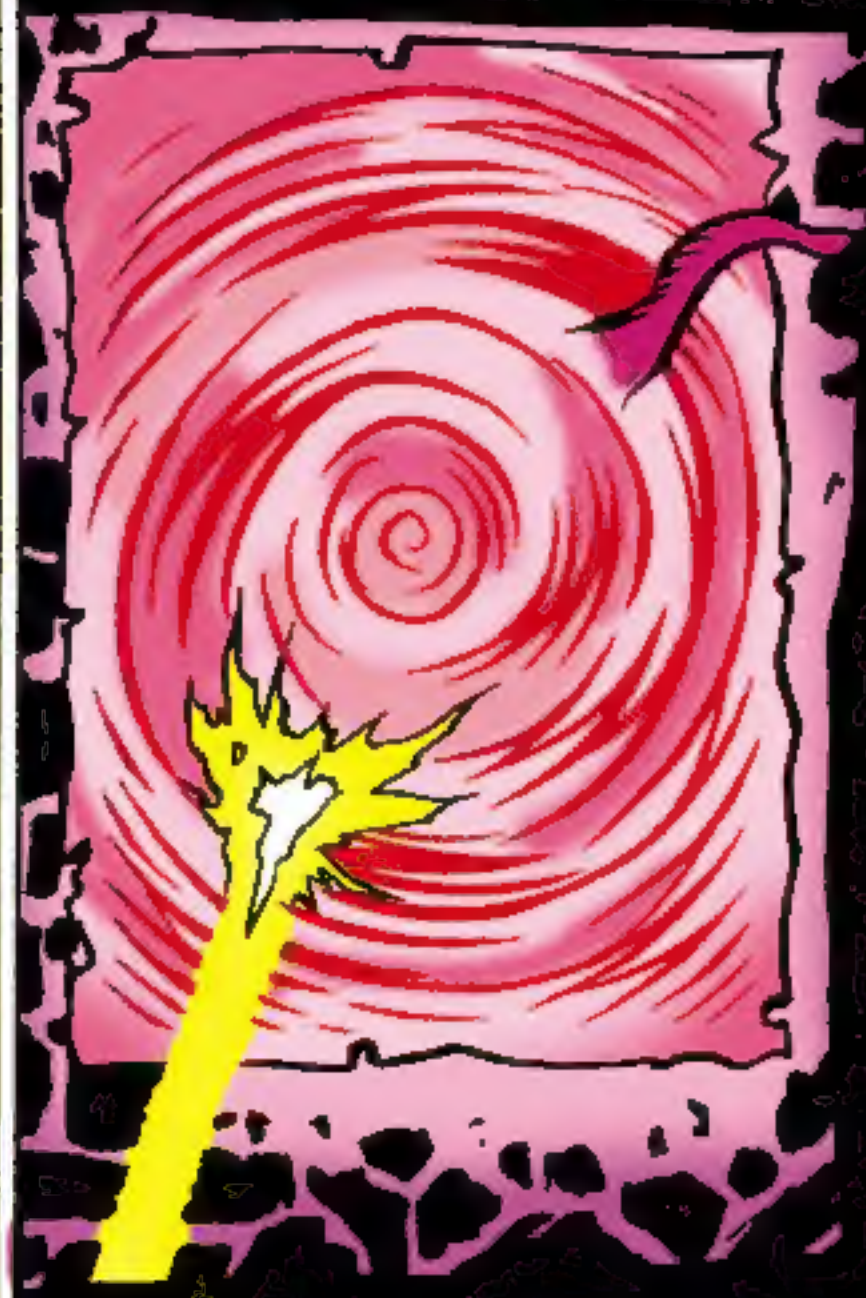
MASTER!!



GET
AWAY
FROM
IT!

IT'S--





THEN ALL
IS QUIET.

ALL IS STILL.



TO BE
CONCLUDED.

he is lost

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP